**National Platform on Land and Water Management  
Steering Committee meeting – ILRI campus, January 25, 2013**

Present: Adane Kassa (chair), Betru Nedessa (vice-chair), Kees Swaans (secr.), Kifle Abegaz, Leulseged Yirgu, Feyera Abdi, Belay Demissie, and Dejene Abesha

Apologized: Melaku Tadesse, Deres Abdulkadir (represented by Leulseged), Simon Langan/Alan Duncan

Note taker: Meron Mulatu

**Revised Agenda**

1. Opening/introduction and announcements
2. Review of minutes former SC meeting
3. Thematic Working Groups
   1. Update/reflection on activities since last meeting
   2. Way forward in 2013
4. National Platform meeting
   1. Update/reflection on 3rd National Platform meeting
   2. Looking forward the 4th National Platform meeting
5. Linking science and policy
6. Sustainability of the platform beyond 2013
7. Action points
8. **Agenda No. 1: Opening /Introduction and announcements:**

Agenda was introduced by Kees Swaans and he asked whether there was missing point for discussion on the agenda. Agenda was agreed upon by all participants.

1. **Agenda No. 2: Review of minutes from the former SC meeting:**

Kees Swaans went through the minutes of the last SC meeting and it was approved by all. No remarks were made by participants in in terms of what was missing in the minutes.

1. **Agenda No. 3 : Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)**

**3.1. Update/reflection on activities since last meeting**

Kees updated participants on the current status of the TWG’s

* TWG’s have a chair and vice chair –there are four working groups
* Each TWG has 3-7 core members (representing key players); core groups were invited to separate meetings last June/July at ILRI..
* Key agendas were explored for each TWG (for institutional innovation, technological innovation, policy support, climate change and ecosystem resilience)
* Each came with an idea of a learning event – experiences could be shared and developed a short preliminary agenda
* They presented their plans last year July during the 3rd National Platform meeting
* Most of the groups don’t have the time to push it further.
* It would be hard to get these groups going without NBDC pushing it.
* First learning event on GIS was organized by the Nile BDC (the use of GIS-tool at regional level for planning purposes) in December 2012. Around 20 organizations were involved; the event was perceived as a success.
* The idea is to produce a brief about the GIS tool: what is the tool about, what was discussed, what are the challenges to implement it and bring it scale) as part of the Nile BDC communication strategy.
* Each of the learning events will have a (policy) brief that can be shared with others and linked with the national platform itself.
* Next thematic working group meeting will be organized by Nile BDC and Afromaison projects and is planned early February. The event will be about a tool for landscape scale strategy development for integrated NRM and will be organized in the context of institutional innovation and climate change..
* Other suggestion that have been made for learning events are: on modeling, participatory methods, gender; Simon (Nile BDC) has been thinking of field visit to one of the sites (which could be organized by the TWG on policy support).

**Comments from participants:**

**Feyera Abdi**

* TWGs need to operate freely. The way it has been going has been appropriate. The support needed for the group to benefit – is crucial especially in relation to the key functions.
* Link it to the global initiatives that can be done.

**Kees Swaans**

* How do we see these core groups? Their role at the moment is not very clear.

**Adane Kassa**

* Support from NBDC is crucial.
* The idea was for Institutions to buy into the TWGs So that some of the issues could be institutionalized
* Role is important. We have to pursue and TWG to take some of the responsibilities/customize some of the ideas to their own institutions
* Learning events are important – could look into the future. How to go about with the TWG
* Am not clear taking policy makers to the field visits (who would be responsible for this) how can we use this to institutionalize

**Kees Swaans commented**

* Although NBDC will play an important role in the first few learning events, it is important that people see the TWG and the learning events as something beyond the NBDC
* NBDC can assist with the logistics
* Gender has not been paid so much attention within NBDC, and could be a possible topic for a learning event with strong involvement of other organizations and projects.
* Learning events (3 which are more product focused) and 3 more thematic focused may be an idea
* Policy engagement learning event – going to a site of what has happened. Look for some core funding for logistical support, and facilitation and documentation.

**Feyera Abdi:**

* What is it that we are going to show the decision makers to win them and they understand what is happening on the ground
* Where is it that we need policy leverage; this needs to be pin pointed, and we need to get the best out of it.
* The policy makers will have chance to listen to the communities so that they look into to what is going
* Where are we facing the policy gaps
* Who are the people we are targeting. Who are the shakers and the movers – formally and informally and we need to play the game. Lobby and convince them to come to the event.
* Who are the policy makers –matters for us in order to succeed

**Kees Swaans:**

* If we have core groups, what are the key issues that need to be discussed?
* TWGs could take the initiative to identify a key issues/agenda for learning events etc.

**Feyera Abdi:**

* We miss how the groups link (how do we make them effective) relationship to the steering committee should be clear and how to make them effective needs to be defined

**Kees Swaans:**

* Role of TWG – set the agenda and promote the experiences within the institutions
* What are the key issues
* What kind of opportunities are there
* Agenda + concrete event – which can be shared and linked to the national platform
* Keep the core groups as they are.

**Feyera Abdi**

* TWG shouldn’t be burdened too much

**Dejene Abesha**

* Under SLM we have different task forces (environment, land admin., capacity dev. and irrigation taskforce)
* We need to bring this platform into the existing framework –which has not been done
* Designing and group based on study and engage them on a workshop.
* Which are the areas that have policy gaps needs to be known
* We need to take this into a framework and make institutions should be aware.
* What is being done in here and share

**3.2. Way forward in 2013**

Kees summarized the key issues discussed and agreed:

* Belay will consult with the national level where TWGs will they fit in
* What kind of links there are
* For the moment, we keep on going like we did it
* Keep the TWG as they are –identify opportunities for learning events
* We’re planning to have 6-8 learning events this year
* One idea is to take the policy makers out of the office and interact with people, but it is clear that it need some thought about the purpose and who should be part of it.

1. **Agenda No. 4 : National Platform meetings**
   1. **Update/reflection on 3rd National Platform meeting**

* National Platform meeting was organized in July 2012, together with ICRAF
* Report – in the form or a working paper – is still in progress

Kees Swaans asked participants about what their impression was of the meeting”

**Betru Nedessa:**

* Was a very good meeting and it addressed a lot of interesting issues. There was an active participation. The kind of platform we need. Need to have articulate issue. It should be presented in terms of scientific presentation and go for a field trip.
* We need to narrow down to what we can do and do tangible things that can be visible
* Some working paper needs to be presented to the TWG.
* TWG once and twice in a year can’t do much
* Limit our tasks
* We have to clearly define what can be done by everyone

**Dejene Abesha**

* The approach we should follow for convincing policy makers is first we need to present analytically synthesized report and then go for a field visit for further support

**Adane Kassa**

* The issues might need a review as time has gone.

**Kees Swaans:**

* What went well was that there was:
  + Concrete topic –
  + A lot of people came
  + The output – which is in progress – is very content focused with identification of challenges and opportunities.
* What didn’t work
  + The joint collaboration between the National Platform and ICRAF was not very clear or integrated in the 2-day workshop.
  + Lot of presentations and time keeping was not good; some lost attention; not everyone was enthusiastic
  + The report should have been finalized earlier
  + Getting professional facilitation is important to ensure more interactive sessions.
  1. **Looking forward to the 4th National Platform meeting**

Kees Swaans went through the NP meeting agenda which is planned to happen on 20-21 February, 2013

* NBDC is in last year, so what are the products of NBDC
* How can we get our scientific outputs link to policy and policy makers
* The idea is to use the NBDC as a case study for the next national platform meeting, in which work of NBDC will be presented and come up with recommendation on land and water management with relevance beyond the NBDC
* The NBDC stakeholder meeting would be merged with the next national platform meeting, resulting in a two day event which is paid by NBDC – (20-21st of February 2013).

Kees Asked for feedback on the agenda of the meeting on Feb. 20-21.

**Kifle Abegaz**

* Who is going to be the audience

**Kees Swaans**

* NBDC stakeholders – including some other relevant key players and policy makers; about 50-80 people and belay is reviewing the list of particpants

**Betru Nedessa:**

* Steering committee members should be involved
* From learning point of view it is ok to merge; for addressing issues from the objective of our platform am doubtful

**Dejene Abesha**

* NBDC has helped so much and how do we make sure that we continue to do that
* Platform emerged as a result of NBDC. What lessons we have learned and how do you ensure it is sustainable is important.
* It doesn’t have any harm.
* Best practices that we have learned

**Feyera Abdi:**

* Slightly modify the objective and agenda of the workshop
* In addition to show casing NBDC we can show the link to the major national level policy issues like SLM. How to institutionalize and main stream – takes us to the policy.
* It benefits the NBDC and the broader issues

**Dejene Abesha:**

* Suggestion to call Ato Seleshi to open the meeting (Belay to discuss who can open in consultation with Alan Duncan/Simon Langan )

**Kees Swaans summarizes key issues**

* The idea of merging was to ensure more integration in terms of program and agenda
* Idea to present it like a national platform meeting but show case the works of NBDC
* Suggestion to present work beyond NBDC at the market place
* Belay could have a session in the program on how do we want to link this to the national platform. (Kees to discuss this with NBDC with Simon Langan and Alan Duncan)
* Possibly invite outsider (beyond NBDC) to open the workshop (to discuss with Simon Langan and Alan Duncan).

1. **Agenda No. 5 : Linking science with policy**

Belay Demissie (consultant) hired recently by ILRI/IWMI presented what he is planning to do:

On the demand side

* Have started to review what has happened within the NBDC
* How can we influence policy makers and practices
* How can we sustain the current platform – will be explored and align it to the National platform
* How do government, policy makers support it – consult the higher level ministers and SLM and others to get the linking
* Identify political champions that can support and institutionalize the national platform
* Have identified: GTZ, CIDA and others

On the supply side:

* NBDC – to what extent these are presented at a higher level
* MoA is revising the extension strategy now – how can we sell the idea/products/lessons to the policy makers
* Find a mechanism to sell the idea and funding and institutionalization will come.
* The TWG and task forces established will be looked upon

**Kees Swaans:**

* How can we link policy with NBDC
* How can NBDC relate towards what is happening at the government level
* When he comes up with the findings he will present to the Steering Committee the best way foreword

**Dejene Abesha:**

* Research result needs to be linked to the extension and policy makers will bring an additional value not only to the policy makers.
* It is both ways (linking to the policy and extension down is very important)

**Betru Nedessa:**

* How this platform could be linked to government and institution and development partners is very important. It is now at an ad-hoc kind of status.
* Define the role of the platform – how it is contributing
* To get sufficient support from the donors
* Strong body
* Dr. Belay can play a big role in defining this things and linking to potential donors and they need to be critically articulated.

**Adane Kassa**

* Dr. Tilahun’s contributions have been immense. Dr. Belay has also showed us the gray areas. His experiences would definitely contribute.

**Suggestions to Belay:**

**Leuelseged Yirgu:**

* Indigenous knowledge that has been accumulated over a century in the community needs to be addressed

**Belay Demissie:**

* The three regions need to benefit (We are planning to organize a regional level meeting) so that the other regions could benefit from NBDC (Oromia, Southern and others)

**Feyera Abdi:**

* Issue of gaps
  + Look at the gaps at a national level (SLM) how they can be really more effective
* Opportunities:
  + Let’s not miss global opportunities – emerging opportunities that can be seen
* Careful not to overlap the responsibilities between the national platform and SLM
* Our role should compliment SLM

**Betru Nedessa:**

* What are the gaps?
* What is their vision of the other task forces – and why are they not able to go further.
* We can share a lot of things –
* Dr. Belay though Dejene’s facilitation can get information and discuss the future direction

**Dejene Abesha**

* Comparative advantages needs to be clearly pointed out
* Irrigation, capacity building–contacts need to be involved and we need to bridge that gap.
* It is a long way but achievable and manageable

**Kees Swaans:**

* What would be the best level to operate needs to be addressed – which could be a comparative advantage

**Feyera Abdi:**

* Establishing some link with ATA. What is going on with ATA as they are emerging major players

1. **Agenda No. 6: Sustainability beyond 2013**

Some key issues summarized by Kees Swaans:

* Key question is how we create a national platform beyond 2013
* We lack the engagement of the private sector and we lack gender balance in SC; the composition of the SC is an issue that need to be discussed in 2013
* CG might play a role but their role may be different
* Belay should look into who should lead in the future (Government or other )
* Steering committee to lead process (CG could have members in the SC) and keep it open (independent status for National Platform; Belay can explore what policy makers and key players want)

**Dejene Abesha**

* ILRI/IWMI should lead
* If we formalize it should be government

**Betru Nedessa:**

* In the long run it can be an independent entity

**Kees Swaans:**

* Next steering committee meeting can be held in April/May, to discuss results of consultation and see what fits; would be good when Alan or Simon could be present in next meeting to discuss continuation. They have more to say on this as they are the ones leading NBDC since Tilahun Amede left.

**Dejene Abesha:**

* We need to revisit the membership of the steering committee. Inviting other members from the govt. we need to have people from environment and water etc….

**Leulseged Yigezu:**

* CRG facilities Climate change facility – responsible window - . We can submit our proposal to MoFED

**Dejene Abesha**

* CRG facilities major donors are DFID and Norwegians

**Kees Swaans**

* It is more productive to discuss this issue in-depth when we know the main findings of the consultation planned by Belay; hence we postpone this issue to the next Steering Committee meeting.

1. **Action Points:**

Action items summarized by Kees Swaans:

* Kees to update TOR of National Platform and circulate to all and get feedback; integrate feedback and check with Chair/vice-chair.
* Suggest date for the next SC meeting after consultation by Belay has been finalized

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.